

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN OPTOMETRY
239 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

If you were licensed by examination after January 1, 1994 you do not need a TPA application in addition to your MA license application. TPA certification is issued with your license.

If you are an optometrist who was licensed by examination after 01/01/1984, you are automatically eligible for DPA certification. No additional application or fee is required for DPA. To obtain TPA certification please complete and submit a TPA application and the fee directly to the Optometry Board office.

If you are an optometrist who was licensed prior to 01/01/1984, you must submit applications for DPA and TPA if you are seeking either certification in MA.

Overview of Eligibility Requirements - For *details* about eligibility, refer to the Optometry Board regulations at 246 CMR 2.00. Regulations are available on the Board's web site at <http://www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/op>

Certificate for Use of Diagnostic Therapeutic Agents (DPA Certification)

Licensed optometrists in MA are eligible for DPA Certification if they were licensed by examination **after** January 1, 1984.

- A new applicant for DPA Certification in MA must submit proof of the date on which he/she was originally qualified for licensure by examination. Acceptable documentation includes an official letter of verification from the licensing agency in the jurisdiction in which the applicant was qualified for licensure by examination.

Licensed optometrists in MA seeking DPA Certification who were qualified for licensure by examination **before** January 1, 1984, must provide acceptable documentation to the Board of the following:

- Documentation of 97 hours of course work (*descriptive curriculum and official transcript from the provider school of optometry or medicine*) as prescribed in MGL, c. 112, s. 68A
- If licensed with DPA Certification in another jurisdiction, official documentation of DPA Certification from that jurisdiction
- Documentation of 30 hours of supervised clinical practice, including 6 hours in pediatric practice

Certificate for Use of Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA Certification)

I. Licensed optometrists in MA who were originally licensed by examination in MA **after January 1, 1994** are deemed to have met the requirements for TPA Certification and are not required to complete a separate TPA application.

II. Optometrists who were originally licensed by examination in another jurisdiction **after January 1, 1994**, and licensed in MA by reciprocity are deemed to have met the

requirements for TPA Certification in MA if they provide official documentation of the license issue date from the jurisdiction that issued the original license.

III. Optometrists who were licensed in MA by examination **before January 1, 1994**, *do not have* TPA Certification in another jurisdiction, and are seeking TPA Certification in MA must submit to the Board:

- Documentation of current DPA Certification, or eligibility for DPA Certification in MA
- Official documentation of completion of a ¹qualifying course of didactic TPA study (90 hours) from the school of optometry or school of medicine that provided the course
- Documentation of completion of a 30 hour course of supervised clinical TPA practice approved by the Board

IV. Optometrists who were originally licensed by examination **before January 1, 1994** in another state, and who *have* TPA certification issued by another state, and who were subsequently licensed by reciprocity in MA must submit to the Board:

- Documentation of current DPA Certification, or eligibility for DPA Certification in MA
- Documentation of current TPA certification in another state where the criteria for TPA Certification meet or exceed the MA requirements at 246 CMR 2.03(1)(c)2; or
- If the criteria from the other state do not meet MA requirements, official documentation of the necessary additional didactic instruction or additional supervised clinical TPA practice

Additional Information

TPA Course

A qualifying course of didactic TPA study meets the following criteria:

- Administered by a duly-accredited school of optometry or school of medicine
- Consists of 90 hours of classroom instruction including at least
 1. Physiology and pharmacology - 24 hours
 2. Diagnosis, correction, prevention, management and/or treatment of anterior segment diseases or conditions - 24 hours; and
 3. Diagnosis, correction, prevention, management and/or treatment of posterior segment diseases or conditions - 24 hours

Controlled Substance Registration

- Contact the Drug Control Program at the MA Department of Health for an application for a Controlled Substance Registration. Phone: (617) 983-6700.
- It is not legal to use or prescribe pharmaceutical agents without a DPH Controlled Substance Registration.
- TPA Certificate from the MA Optometry Board is a prerequisite for a MA Controlled Substance Registration.

¹ 246 CMR 2.03 (2)
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